

**An Emerging Tree is Known By Its Fruit:**  
How *Confessional* Orthodoxy Answers “*Generous* Orthodoxy”  
*A. Craig Troxel*

**I - ROOT: The *Background* of the Emergent Church**

**Broad Evangelicalism**

**Postmodernism**

- A. Postmodernism: No meta-narratives, no over-arching explanation (no absolute)
  - 1. Reaction to Modernism (Enlightenment)
  - 2. Epistemology: We can not know the world as it truly is, so we shape it *via* language
- B. Community
  - 1. We search for “authenticity” in community
  - 2. All knowledge is situated in a specific social context

**II - TRUNK: The *Commitments* of the Emergent Church**

**“Protesting” Broad Evangelicalism**

**Postmodern Theology:** Minister *to* postmoderns... *with* postmoderns... *as* postmoderns

**Communitarian Ecclesiology:** “Authenticity” & “Missional “

**III - BRANCH & FRUIT: The *Characteristics* of the Emergent Church**

**Defining the Emergent Church**

*“Emerging churches are communities that practice the way of Jesus within postmodern cultures. This definition encompasses nine practices. Emerging churches (1) identify with the life of Jesus, (2) transform the secular realm, and (3) live highly communal lives. Because of these three activities, they (4) welcome the stranger, (5) serve with generosity, (6) participate as produces, (7) created as created beings, (8) lead as a body, and (9) take part in spiritual activities.”*

- Eddie Gibbs & Ryan Bolger, *Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures* (Baker Academy, 2005).

- 1. **Postmodern Theologians:** John Franke, Stanley Grenz, George Lindbeck, Nancy Murphy, Leslie Newbiggin, Kevin Vanhoozer, Robert Webber,
- 2. **Practitioners:** Brian McLaren, Dan Kimball, Spencer Burke, Doug Pagitt, Steve Chalke, Leonard Sweet, Mike Yaconelli,
- 3. Taxonomy (Mark Driscoll): “Relevants,” “Reconstructionists,” “Revisionists”

**Communal Ecclesiology**

A. Authenticity in Community

B. Missional

**Postmodern Theology**

